DECEMBER 5-11

MATWATCH

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STEVE'S SIDELIGHTS
By Steve Beverly

A GEM OF A JIM

Quoting Howard Cosell: "Let me digress for a moment..." In the midst of the Turner and Jarrett buyouts, the Deep South death and the Dusty dilemma, I hope one figure hasn't been diluted in the Clorox.

I've stood and stared at the marvelous precious gems in the Smithsonian. I've seen pictures from news photographers which one unhesitatingly would classify as historical gems. I've seen the gemlike beauty of the Biltmore House in Asheville, N.C.

Occasionally in the broadcast industry, one finds that rare gem. Perhaps a Murrow, Cronkite, or a Brinkley in news; maybe a Lucy, a Carol Burnett or an Andy Griffith in comedy; or the nastiness of a Larry Hagman in a decade of DALLAS. To the world at large, the genre which is pro wrestling can't be classified (Jimmy Garvin or not) as precious. But in the scope of what it is, I can single out one gem of an announcer whom I hope isn't being taken for granted in the midst of office transition.

A friend recently suggested (as a joke, thankfully) that I was Jim Ross's press agent. For the record, the last time I ever met Jim Ross was never. Nope, never even spoken to the guy. By the time you read this, I hope to have met him at the NWA tapings in Columbus GA. But I simply admire his talents in an age where many accede to the role of wrestling announcer because of family connections or promotional ownership.

To me, Ross is to wrestling television what Larry Munson is to football on radio. Munson is the voice of the University of Georgia and Atlanta Falcons and is oft-acknowledged as one of the best in sports broadcasting at painting a word picture. Munson also is one of the kings at making you believe you're having CPR administered at the end of a chilling finish. In wrestling, that's Ross.

Articulate but with country boy appeal, Ross was singled out by Dennis Brent of PRO WRESTLING DIGEST as bringing "a sense of intelligence" to wrestling commentary.

If you want your audience to feel a sense of importance above the scope of an average match, Ross can sell that feeling. If you want a story to be told in commentary, Ross conveys it.

Is Jim flawed? Who isn't? At times, he can get a bit wordy, such as at CLASH III. Jim did a terrific job but it had been so long since he'd done the lead play-by-play role, he tended to step too far into analysis which the underrated Bob Caudle should have carried.

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A contributor to the fine RINGSIDE REFLECTOR recently knocked Jim for his anecdotes and phrases on the TBS telecasts. The anonymous writer even inferred Ross is trying out for Titan. I respect the writer's opinion but beg to differ. In what has been for three years one of TV's most wasted hours, the TBS a.m. show, Ross and Tony Schiavone have loosened up and had genuine fun with an otherwise deadly telecast. Jim often reminds me of the late Dizzy Dean with that quick wit. Who knows? He may even break into THE WABASH CANNONBALL one day (you fans over 35 know what I mean by that).

Even when shows are truly uninspiring, Jim Ross makes me want to watch because I truly gain the sense he enjoys what he's doing (as opposed to David Crockett who doesn't know what he's doing).

What gravely concerns me is that "Rossie," as Sting would call him, has not---to my knowledge---been offered a firm TBS contract (neither have many other guys but the cream should be getting some vibes). In all the talk of Gordon Solie likely returning to TBS (which I endorse, though not on the Sunday show) and speculation as to when TBS will ax David, I hope the Turner folks are not neglecting one of the real gems of this business. A man who is respected as one of the unsung creative minds. A man who, I'm told, has often been underappreciated by the old Crockett guard as "one of Bill Watts' boys" (a compliment unless you knew the tone in which it was offered).

In my view, Jim Ross has the potential to be the biggest star announcer in the next decade in this profession, if used properly---which is in the anchor play-by-play role for TBS wrestling telecasts. The NWA may be far outmarketed by Titan but the WWF is perpetually out-announced and the major reason is the work of Rossie. Somebody please contact the contracts department at Turner Broadcasting. You have a gem on your hands I hope you appreciate.

CABLE RATINGS RAP
(November 22-29)

	RATINGS	SHARE
WWF (USA 11/22)	2.8	4.2
NWA (TBS pm 11/26)	2.5	4.6
NWA (TBS Sun 11/27)	2.4	4.0
WWF (USA 11/29)	2.4	3.5
NWA (TBS am 11/26)	1.5	4.9

(Analysis on Page 4)

Y O U S A I D I T ! ! ! !

Santa's mailbag filled up early this month. Let's see what kind of things our folks are itching for as Christmas approaches:

If and when the NWA decides to tour (Australia), tell (Jack Petrik) not to make the same mistakes the WWF made---that is, to only come for one show and then not come back for at least three months...and not to charge high prices for the tickets as the WWF did. They were asking about $22 per ticket, which the man on the street cannot afford. Once he tatakes the family, it has cost him over $100.00 just for a night out.

SUE CHULER
VICTORIA AUSTRALIA

That J.J. scam of keeping the hot managers home is exactly the kind of unprofessional bushwah that TBS must put on its corporate foot down on, immediately. Business decisions based on personal ego motivations have crippled the NWA long enough.

BILL KUNKEL
WOODHAVEN NY

(FSB: In an earlier letter, Bill singled out Hawk's NWA line, "I don't know what you see when you look in the mirror...Dreamer." It was a great one indeed and we missed it because WXIX in Columbus decided to lose transmission for 18 minutes during that show.)

Prior to the Oct. 29 SNME, KNBC ran a five second blurb for their series on STEROIDS. Pretty appropriate, huh?

DAN FARREN
RESEDA CA

I'm not one of those (Bill) Watts fanatics who thinks he is infallible but he has a great wrestling mind and everybody respects him. But with booking, it's like Eddie Gilbert said: about every six months, a booker needs a rest. That was Watts' big advantage in that he did that. The NWA booker should be receptive of other ideas from the boys.

STEVE MASTROPIETRO
MECHANICVILLE NY

(FSB: This letter was symbolic of several we received supporting our stand for Dusty Rhodes to step down or be removed as booker.)

I thought the Four Horsemen unit was the best group concept that ever hit wrestling. But as long as Flair is the titular head, I hope they keep it. You need a class act like Eddie Gilbert to become a Horseman. A Tommy Rich or an Ace Orton is not the answer. Also, the parade has passed by Greg Valentine. Tom Prichard could be converted, provided he got a haircut. Can you or your readers conjure up any other plausible candidates?

JOHN LANIGAN
MCKEESPORT PA

(FSB: Of course, John, I've endorsed killing the Horseman angle but if TBS retained it, I think Eddie and Prichard would be the ideal guys---maybe even an Eric Embry. How 'bout it, MATWATCHers?

Regarding Eddie Gilbert: if anything could have helped the dying AWA promotion, he's the one who--if given the chance---could have brought this group out of its coma. If Verne Gagne still had any active brain cells he would realize another opportunity for survival has just slipped away. If there ever was a case for mercy killing, the AWA is it. Pull the plug, Verne!

BRIAN SCOTT
HAMILTON, ONTARIO

I've only seen Tully & Arn in one match so far (letter written in early November...FSB) against Houston & Casey on Prime Time. They haven't lost their workrate but when they find out they can slack off with no problem...well, we'll have to see. Maybe they'll have the DiBiase mentality and still work their butts off but something tells me Tully won't. Maybe Arn.

RON LEMIEUX
VERNON CT

(FSB: Let me plug Ron's ARENA REPORT, a fine results bulletin. Order for 50 cents an issue from Ron at 205 VERNON AVE. #187, VERNON CT 06066.

We're extremely starved for any kind of live cards in this part of the country. Titan is the only group who promotes near here, with the frequent exception of a Geigel spot show in one of the smaller towns. Geigel usually hates to see my friends and I come through the doors at one of his shows, although we usually double the gate.

GARY VANICEK
LINCOLN NE

PINFALL PROFILE: CLASH &'SUPERCLASH

I'm reminded of the theme from THE GREATEST AMERICAN HERO when I think of SUPER CLASH III: "High and away on a wing and a prayer....believe it or not, it's just me." Although in Verne Gagne's case, I believe it's a prayer before the Last Rites.

There are some truly respectable people associated with this effort in Chicago: Broadway Danny Wolfe of FNN has worked hard to help get the PPV network arranged; there would truly be no SUPER CLASH without Jerry Jarrett because Verne's talent roster brings about as much enthusiasm as getting a payraise only to find out your health insurance premium is going up, too.

For the sake of the FNN/SCORE folks, I hope SUPER CLASH isn't a guillotine of a disaster but I see this being the worst buy-in of any PPV show since STARRCADE '87, if not ever. Look at the strikes this show has had against it: (1) loss of a weekend nighttime spot on ESPN the entire months of November and December; (2) several promotions which air the Lee Marshall spot during their syndicated shows and never incorporate any promotion during their own shows; and (3) complete burnout of the Jerry Lawler-Kerry Von Erich series two months before the supposed final unification match of the AWA and World Class titles.

I want to ask you an honest question: other than the Jerry-Kerry match, something about the POWW girls lingerie battle royal and maybe hearing vaguely that Wendi Richter would be on the card, can you name one match on the SUPER CLASH card off the top of your head? If the answers are as I think they are, that explains what's wrong with this show.

I may be wrong but I hope they finally get these two titles unified, forget doing another show in the already saturated pay market, and give Verne a Social Security check that's as much as he used to pay Randy Rose and get him out of the business. It's time, once and for all, for Jerry Jarrett to take control of what he can assemble as America's third promotion and whatever crumb of ESPN time is still available. Let's just hope we can find a tiny tithe of entertainment Tuesday night.

On the CLASH that isn't so super, there is one match alone which can sell SEASON'S BEATINGS and I hate to tell Dusty it's not him and Animal. The Ric Flair/Barry Windham vs. Midnight Express pits four of the elite workers in this country and that, alone, is worth a watch. Expect Paul E. and his Original Midnights to crash the party at the end to set up their STARRCADE showdown but it should be a fine one.

Plus, the U.S. Tag Team Tournament final (while the belt doesn't matter) should put a lot of heat on Eddie Gilbert. Teaming with Ron Simmons, Eddie has already been making noises of "doing anything necessary" to win the belts. These two teams will rematch at STARRCADE and I'm betting on Eddie & Ron to get the belts in an underhanded fashion, thanks to Eddie, but Ron will probably refuse to take it, setting up Round 2 Dec. 26.

On the other hand, as an overall shot, this has potential to be the worst of the four TBS CLASH events. There is going to be interest in Dusty-Animal but I'm wagering in many U.S. homes, fans will be pleading for Animal to finish the job. Then we have a Paul Jones-Ivan Koloff affair that sounds like something Verne would have promoted. And Steve Williams vs. Italian Stallion is a waste, though it at least keeps Steve off the broadcast mike.

But you may want to tape the replay Dec. 20 if you didn't record the live airing. It may be a collectors' item because it could well be the last major DUSTY RHODES PRODUCTION for the SuperStation. And all of the people said.....

POST MORTEM: SURVIVORS & SNME

Someone said to me on the phone this week, "You know, if you didn't know better, after putting on such a good show as SURVIVOR SERIES, you'd think Vince was throwing all the crap he can on the air just to clog the market."

It doesn't take a college professor to come up with that theory. Indeed, SNME was the worst ever I believe. That Super Ninja crap looked like something Verne would do, too (I hate picking on an old man). And while Savage-Andre had its spots, the previous month's angle was far more entertaining. Stallions-Rougeaus was too short and the Duggan match made me realize what a sadly different performer Jim is from his UWF days.

However, I watched the SURVIVOR SERIES tape again with a pleasant relief that when Vince really wants to, he can. He did. Particularly, the tag team match gave us relative non-stop action and Tully Blanchard looked as though someone told him it was Magnum and I QUIT time again.

One line I failed to note last week was Bobby Heenan's comment on Terry Taylor: "That man will never make it in this profession." I'm still a bit insulted at how Taylor's being used before his January turn but it wasn't enough to spoil an excellent job of storytelling in the final match. The look on Savage's face told it all and I think it was appropo for the announcers not to embellish it...just let the pictures tell it.

RATING: Overall Production: 4.6, Quality of Matches: 4.1, Crowd Enthusiasm: 3.4 (too sweetened); Announcing: 3.8; Overall Excellence of Show: 4.0; TOTAL RATING: 19.9 on a scale of 25, which would make it the second-best supercard this year, next to CLASH I.

COMINGS & GOINGS

---I suppose you've heard the latest wire from glasnost: Nikita (Scott Simpson) Koloff has quit the NWA. Most insiders say he saw the handwriting on the wall and got out before he was bounced.

---The Dusty-Animal angle on Thanksgiving weekend did not set well with a lot of TBS viewers. The SuperStation was flooded with calls complaining about the "True Grit" attempted eye-plucking. No confirmation on a report Ted Turner himself asked for a copy of the tape.

---If Schiavone & Ross looked unenthusiastic during the 11/27 NWA MAIN EVENT, they were. They had to tape that thing Thanksgiving morning at 10 a.m. when I'm sure they'd have liked to have been with their families.

---Wednesday night's CLASH IV will be repeated on TBS Dec. 20 at 12:20 a.m. (EST). They want to give West Coast viewers a prime time airing, see what kind of rating it does and give one last boost to STARRCADE.

---Turner insiders are hoping for a 4 rating for the first-run airing. They're concerned of losing audience to ABC's youth-oriented comedy lineup on Wednesdays.

---Jason Hervey of ABC's THE WONDER YEARS, who made a non-speaking appearance at CLASH I was on hand for CLASH IV. Hervey is said to be a big wrestling fan. He'll appeared opposite his own show Wednesday night but, personally, I'd rather see Ken Osmond as Eddie Haskell make an encore trip.

---One well-placed insider told me STARRCADE "is certainly not a slam dunk," and we're told the Turner people are prepared that this won't be a go through the roof show.

---Joe Pedicino & Rhubarb Jones taped 3 more weeks of Southern last weekend but it's anyone's guess what Jerry Blackwell will do when he returns from Japan.

---Blackwell's talks with David Woods were more on a talent-sharing arrangement than a buyout. Woods told Jerry he didn't have additional money to aid the troubled Georgia promotion. Blackwell may enter into a talent trade with Nelson Royal but it's just talk now.
---Speaking of Woods, Knoxville pulled a $20,000 house Thanksgiving night. Houses were up Thanksgiving week in both Montgomery and Birmingham. Chattanooga, however, was a bad gate for the CWF.

---Bob & Brad Armstrong have won the CWF tag belts but face a rematch against Tony Anthony & Jerry Stubbs in which the losing team has to split up. On the Christmas Eve airing of CWF, Brad will win the Wheel of Fortune spin to get a shot at CWF champion Tom Prichard. Speculation is that Prichard will turn heel again but insiders say "wait and see."

---Rip Oliver showed up on the Portland show as a face. The show was taped Nov. 12 so it must have been before his Super Ninja appearance.

---RATINGS RAP: WWF syndication pulled an 11.7 for 260 stations for the week ending Nov. 13. Contrary to what we told you last week, this 11.7 was the one boosted by the USA Election Night special from Paris.

---IDIOT MOVE OF THE WEEK: Why do you take your hottest feud and use it for 20-minute "Broadways" in Las Vegas or San Francisco unless you're deliberately trying to kill the feud? Somebody ought to ask that of Mr. Runnels after the way the Midnight Express and O.M.E. were used last week. Dangerously was really over in Vegas but I was told the match stunk in the Bay Area and J.J. Dillon was said to be looking quite pleased on the side. Will politics never cease???

---I've talked to some key insiders not affiliated with TBS or NWA in the last week and all of them say it's so obvious Dusty is trying to kill the promotion to preserve himself it isn't funny. Personally, I believe some movement toward internal changes will begin to happen within the next 20-30 days but I'm not at liberty to discuss what they may be.

---Can you believe Junkfood Dog as Nikita's replacement on STARRCADE? Vince has to be chuckling on that one.

---I, for one, would like to see the NWA under new hands re-establish a relationship with JOE PEDICINO for PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK. The petty differences Crockett & Dusty had ought to be laid to rest now. I hope the Turner people will at least talk to Joe about sharing tape for PWTW.

---TBS's next CLASH will be in February, about 10 days before its next PPV show. If TBS gets the main event it's after for February, it'll be a money show, I believe.

---NETWORKING: WWF is now on KTBY in Anchorage at 7 a.m. Saturdays. World Class is hanging in on the same station Fridays at 11:30 p.m. I bet the NWA is wowing 'em in New York now Fridays at 2 a.m. on WPIX.

---CABLE RATINGS ANALYSIS: The key figure was the decided drop (back to 2.5) for TBS Saturdays. You can't blame it on Thanksgiving because everything stayed flat. I think, partly, it's attributable to the previous week being back to squash/interview and a massive switchoff after the Dusty angle.

---Why doesn't TBS let JIM CORNETTE guest host the Super Scary Saturday movie? By the way, that Christmas

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Apparently, a number of you have felt this is a nice gift to give as a Christmas or Hannukah gift to a fellow wrestling fan. I'm very flattered and I thank you. An order blank follows:

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promo is the fine work of TBS' Pete Moore, who does many of the SuperStation's innovative sports promos.

---Pedicino is sending out 150,000 flyers with this month's bills to Nometco Cable subscribers in Atlanta. Joe's MVEU Ch. 69 was bumped off most subscriber boxes last month but is back on Ch. 33.

TV TEMPO (Week of November 28-Dec. 4)

RATING SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale.

(ATLANTIC COAST) - Rock & Roll Express d. Larry Stephens/Trent Knight; KEY ANGLE: Doug Somers & Buddy Landell refuse to wrestle on TV unless someone "comes up with some money" and suggest the R&R do so; KEY INTERVIEW: Jimmy Garvin & Precious on Jimmy's recovery. DRAW-PLUS.

(MMC) - Carlos Colon d. Ron Starr in a screwball finish which leads to Chicky Starr turning on Ron; Bobby Jaggers wins Carribean heavyweight title over Ricky Santana; Miguelito Perez/Hurricane Castillo Jr. d. Dr. Death/Mr. Pogo. DRAW.

(MEMPHIS) - CWA TITLE TOURNEY...Semifinals: Mike Miller d. Brickhouse Brown; Brian Lee d. Tommy Lane; FINALS: Lee d. Miller for belt; Sid Vicious d. Chris Frazier; Robert Fuller/Jimmy Golden/Mike Davis d. Scott Steiner/Brian Adams/Todd Morton. MUSIC VIDEOS: Beauty & the Beast, Rick Casey (Wendell Cooley returning) & Vicious (a good one). POWERSLAM-PLUS.

(SCW) - Mr. Wrestling II/Ray Candy d. Black Stud & Scrap Iron; Chic Donovan d. Eddie Sweat; Comrade Busich d. Jim Boss; SOUTHERN TAG TITLE: Joey Maggs/Ranger Ross win DQ over Dino Minelli/Steve Lawler when Donovan chains Maggs but Dino/Steve keep belts. BOMB-PLUS.

(AWA) - No new show this week. Monday at 4, they aired Wahoo McDaniel d. Chris Curtis; Top Guns/Robert Gibson double DQ Soldad Ustinov, Teijho Khan, Manny Fernandez. Tuesday, it was the Midnight Rockers d. Condrey & Rose; and a MAT CLASSIC: Road Warriors d. Fabulous Ones.

(LTR) - Repeat of premiere episode, so I'll review last week's: Dick Murdoch is having domestic troubles with his wife, Bonnie Mae because of his terrible temper. So, the Randall family devises a plan to help Dick become more romantic and thoughtful. Even though Bonnie doesn't think it's the same person, it pays off. DRAW...Murdoch was actually quite good, just lots of the dialogue wasn't written in the way he'd say it.

(CWF) - Johnny & Davey Rich d. Super Dave Baxter/Bill Tabb when Alan Martin hits Baxter with his briefcase; Tom Prichard d. The Count; Black Bart d. Darrell Johnson but Willie B. Hart makes save when Bart keeps beating; Kokina d. B.A. Burton; Danny Davis d. Chuck Casey; Doug Furnas d. J.D. Wolfe. ANGLES: Dutch Mantel powders Prichard at the set; Black Bart shoves boys' ranch operator Tom Owen into the set backdrop; Detroit Demolition, Kokina and Martin jump Furnas, who fends them off singlehandedly until the Riches arrive to help. POWERSLAM.

(PWTW) - ACW: WORLD JR. TITLE, Nelson Royal d. David Isley; MEMPHIS: Sid Vicious d. Chris Frazier/Rodney Napper; MMC: Rufus R. Jones d. Bobby Jaggers; MWF: Owen Hart Blazer d. Barry Horowitz; CWF: Armstrongs DQ over Jerry Stubbs/Tony Anthony when Dutch Mantel chloroforms Bob; MCCW: Eric Embry DQ over Iceman Parsons when Black Bart hits Eric with cane; SCW: Ray Candy d. Steve Bennett; PORTLAND: Matt Borne wins DQ over Abuda Dein; INTL. MATCH: Japan tag match with Bad News Allen; MAT CLASSIC: Workout: Great Bolo, Tom Rice & Don Arnold. MARS WRESTLER OF WEEK: Royal. DRAW...So-so show but intl. match needs wrestlers' names supered.

(W. CLASS) - Michael Hayes d. The Avenger; Kevin Von Erich wins DQ over Super Black Ninja when Kendo Nagasaki interfereres, leading to Kevin juicing and major brawl; The Beast/Iceman Parsons d. Mickey Finn/Phil Miley; Kerry Von Erich/Frank Dusek/Steve Cox/Eric Embry d. Jeff Jarrett/Eddie Marlin/Samoan Swat Team when SST turn on Jarrett/Marlin and 7-minute melee erupts that ends with Kerry & Embry saving Marlin & Jarrett. VIDEOS: Bill Dundee, CWA stars. DRAW-PLUS.

(MWF) - [SPOTLIGHT]: Terry Taylor d. Joe Cruze; Anabolic Warrior d. Barry Horowitz; Tito Santana d. Al Novarro; Honky Tonk Man d. John Ziegler. BOMB.
[CHALLENGE]: From SMME, Anabolic d. Super Ninja; From SURVIVORS: Fuji switches to Powers of Pain; Rockers d. Horowitz/Steve Lombardi; Koko B. Ware d. Mike Sharpe; Other winners: Ron Bass, Red Rooster, Akeem. ANGLE: Jack Tunney fines Bad News Brown $20,000 for attack on the MWF president. RESTHOLD.
[SUPERSTARS]: Brutus Beefcake d. Chuck Campbell; Harley Race d. Jim Gorman; Hart Foundation d. Horowitz/Sharpe; Other winners: Akeem, Rick Rude, Dino Bravo; BRO. LOVE w. Randy Savage & Elizabeth and Randy chokes Bro. Bruce for Liz-bashing; plus, Fuji angle. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/TBS) - [NCW]: Varsity Club skedded vs. Randy Mulkey & Mr. Pain. Pain doesn't show so Mulkey goes solo and while getting destroyed, Mr. Pain (Steiner in red mask) appears to run off the V.C.; Ric Flair d. Jerry Price; Midnight Express d. El Negro/Bob Emery; Original Midnights d. Trent Knight/David Isley; Other winners: Sting, Commandos, Barry Windham, Steiner, Lex Luger, Bam Bam Bigelow. ANGLES: Replay of Dusty-Animal "True Grit" incident (blood censored); Bam Bam, Barry, J.J. Dillon, Oliver Humperdink get into brawl as show ends. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[A.M]: Commandos d. Max Miles/Eddie Sweat; Road Warriors d. J.C. Wilde/Randy Hogan; Other winners: Bam

Bam, Windham, Steiner, V.C. BOMB.
[MAIN EVENT RERUNS]: Ric Flair/Barry Windham d. Mike Justice/Curtis Thompson; Rick Steiner d. Kendall Windham (3rd run); Bobby Fulton DQ over Al Perez (2nd run). BOMB.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: Nikita Koloff d. Russian Assassin 1 by DQ and Nikita removes mask; Original Midnights d. Joe Cruze/Italian Stallion when Cornette, Eaton & Lane run in and start brawl that goes to arena stage; Other winners: V.C., Steiner. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[NWA PRO]: Barry Windham wins DQ over Bobby Fulton when Bam Bam makes save on Windham claw and applies nuclear splash to Barry; Sting d. Cruel Connection II; Other winners: Midnights, Steiner; REPLAY: TBS True Grit angle. LOUISVILLE SLUGGER: Cornette v. Steiner. DRAW.

LINES OF THE WEEK - 1. Mr. Pain, TBS: "Shhhh, it's me!"; 2. Cornette, TBS: "He (Paul E.) has to call 976-GABB just to get anybody to talk to him."; 3. Paul E. Dangerously, TBS: "We bring your ratings up and you give us opponents like that?; 4. Michael Hayes, W. CLASS: "Just 'cause I'm a little bit used don't mean I'm used up."; 5. Dutch Mantel, CWF: "I thought The Count was something you did with Bert and Ernie on SESAME STREET."; 6. Jim Ross, on Mr. Pain's mask: "That's a good disguise...we're not talking 007 here."; 7. Bobby Jaggers, WWC: "I'm making that ugly man (Rufus Jones) uglier."; 8. Mike Davis, CWA: "Todd Morton looks like he ought to be on a street corner selling ice cream."; 9. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "How come Beefcake don't wrestle anybody bald?"; 10. Bobby Heenan, WWF: "Why would you want to be Tito Santana's partner? It took 25,000 Mexicans to beat 9 people at the Alamo."; 11. Cornette, TBS: "If the Horsemen ever sell J.J. to an antique dealer, they'll make millions."; 12. Cornette: "Randy Rose looks like a moose with a hernia next to Beautiful Bobby."; 13. Ross, on Commandos: "Ringling Bros. must be missing a camouflage Big Top."; 14. Cornette: "I thought since the O.M.E. had been on the air, people quit breathing it."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Vince McMahon, WWF, after Rude kisses chubby girl: "Just like Jesse said, this IS the COW PALACE!"; 2. Cornette, TBS: "Paul E., I know what you're handling for Condrey & Rose and you can get 15 years for that in some states."; 3. Mantel, CWF: "They kicked Prichard out of med school because he hung around the pharmacy too much."

"DUH" QUESTION OF WEEK - David Crockett, TBS: "How's Dusty doing?" Sting's answer: "How do you THINK he's doing. He got a spike in his eye!"

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - Gorilla Monsoon, WWF: "...Only time will tell."

INTERVIEWS OF THE WEEK - Cornette & Dangerously, swapping incidents of Eaton having to tell his son why "Uncle Dennis" beat him up and how Dennis returned Bobby's gifts to Dennis' son.

BEST PICTURES - 1. World Class, closeup of Kerry-Fatu lockup. 2. WWF, for Bushwackers (Sheepherders) first interview.

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Jerry Quito, MCCW ring announcer, for "referee Bronco Lusek." 2. MCCW, for graphic of JERRY Marlin in 8-man tag. 3. PWTW, for end credits of old mat classic and film tearing off projector airing before actual classic.

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. Steiner, TBS, for "The Flying Tardukee," which he plans to apply to Rotundo; 2. Ross, TBS, for naming Commandos' finishing move the "Stereo Splash." 3. Flair, TBS, for calling himself "The Golden Stallion."

BOO AWARD - 1. NWA/TBS, for miniscule promotion of SEASON'S BEATINGS during body of MCW.

LATE NOTE

I'm going to guardedly say "apparently" again but it appears Dusty Rhodes is finally out as NWA booker. MATWATCH has been told Jim Crockett is acting as booker until a booking committee is formed, of which Crockett would be a part and, reportedly, so would Ric Flair.

Another unconfirmed word is that David Crockett will be removed from the Saturday night TBS show but will be named solo host of the morning CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING in January. We'll comment on that possibility in next week's report on the NWA Columbus TV tapings.

MATWATCH has been told new NWA operations manager Jim Heard is on board and will be evaluating the NWA situation in the coming weeks. Latest missing in action for NWA: Al Perez.

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